

Moose Memo

Hello Spring Time! I hope you are as ready for the good weather ahead as I am. Many things have been happening at Castlewoods Country Club these past several weeks and I thought I would take a moment to bring everyone up to date. The new maintenance equipment has arrived and the course is getting a needed manicure at present. The new equipment is great and Mike and his crew are busy making sure that everyone sees the instant changes that are going on. In just a week or so it looks like the turf grass will be springing up and the extra Poa anna we had this winter will be gone as Castlewoods gets ready for another golf season. We also received our bunker equipment and within a day of arrival, the bunkers are looking great. I would also like to take a minute and address some of the rumors that have spread around the club. It seems that many of our members think that we are not doing everything possible to make your course the best it can be because of budget concerns. Let me assure you that nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact if you look around all the other quality courses in the area, we are not the only one who have extra weeds and poa anna this year. Lots of factors have contributed to this situation but we are in the process of correcting this as I write this letter. The new deck and surrounding areas of Castlewoods Country Club are in fact getting a face lift and renovation but this has nothing to do with the golf course operations. In fact we have made every effort to prevent any new construction and upgrades from interfering with the golf course operations. I have signed an agreement with the other owners of Castlewoods Country Club and am in the process of creating another avenue of revenue by opening up a company that will be able to host and accommodate several hundred people at once. In my opinion,

This is something that has been needed in Rankin County for many years. I also believe enough in Castlewoods Country Club's future success that I have made a considerable investment of my personal funds to create just such a special event company. As to how this will affect the membership of Castlewoods Country Club, let's just say, it is a win/win situation and your club house and grounds will continue to draw many potential new members as the club just keeps getting better and better.

Speaking of better, the new golf cart fleet should be arriving any day now and these are the newest models of carts available anywhere. With the new golf carts, come new guidelines and regulations for rental carts. Just check in at the pro shop and you will be assigned a cart and given a key prior to teeing off.

As the month of April has arrived, so has the urge to play more golf. Many members have asked what they can do to help. I continue to ask you to try and bring in new members as this seems to solve just about everything because of additional revenues. It also increases the advantages of being a member, so if you know of anyone who is interested in a test drive before joining, just have them contact me and I will be glad to explain all the benefits as a member at Castlewoods.

More over, we are going to continue to keep our reduced initiation fee for the month of April at \$300. That's a \$700 savings over our normal fee and again thanks to all the members for your continued help and support.

Other than that, please remember to fill our divots with the sand bottles from your cart and please repair your ball marks on the greens. In fact, try and repair at least one other than yours or fill one other divot with sand and in a few rounds everyone will

Will notice a big difference. Please take the time to rake the bunkers before leaving your shot and ensure that the next player has a good chance at playing out of as good a lie as possible from the bunkers.

This month and during the next month of May, we are scheduled to have several company outings at Castlewoods as is the norm this time of year. That along with many of our scheduled tournaments adds up to a busy next few months. Please be sure to call ahead and get a tee-time to insure getting your normal tee times and games set up. We also encourage each of you to try and participate in some of these outings and events as most are for a great cause and are always a fun and easy way to meet new people while enjoying the beauty of the club. If you or your company is considering an outing in the near few months, please call me for more information and I will be happy to see if we can accommodate everyone.

This past weekend, the third annual Suds Cup sponsored by the Fun Group was contested. It seems that each year this Ryder Cup format just gets better and more fun. This year Michael Slack and his vice captain, Chris Berry lead Boudreau's Bandits to a slim victory over Brinson's Bangers. The Bangers lead by Mike Brinson and his vice captain, David "Bubbles" Sinclair, fought to the very end but came up one point short. Well played Bandits! After the presentation of the Suds Cup was made and the beer flowed freely from the winners cup, The winners pictures were placed on the mantel and as is the tradition, the losers' picture from the contest was posted in the Men's Bathroom as a painful reminder of a hard fought but failed battle that was waged. Thanks to all who participated and made this event possible.

I hope to see you at the club soon!
Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

It's April already and time is slipping by like greased lightning. Many things have been accomplished and many things are still in the works. Before long the grass will be growing out of control and most of the winter projects will be put on hold. You may or may not have noticed that the pruning project looks better than I thought. Although there are still some areas I would like to complete, the course will play better and look better all around. We still have a few more bunker drains to install but the ones, which are complete are doing a fine job. As time allows we will work on these and other projects in hopes to have more completed before summer.

Our equipment was slower coming than we anticipated. But it is arriving daily now and by the end of the first week in April we expect it all to be here. We have used the pieces, which are here, and boy do they cut well. We managed to cut most of the course last week and I expect that to continue in the days to come. We will be on a regular mowing schedule very soon. So what was the hold up? Well we never really got a good answer for that but it was due to circumstances out of our control. We worked

With the manufacturer to fix the problem and we should be on our way now. The weeds this year seem to be out of control compared to the past year. Part of this is due to not mowing them down when we wanted to but more importantly climactic condition particularly last summer when most of the winter weeds germinate. The effects of the severe drought last year will have far reaching ramifications other than the obvious stress on our turf. Pre-emergent herbicides are a weapon against weeds but can only fight half the battle. Thick dense turf makes up the largest portion of the army to combat weeds. The drought last summer hit us and other turf areas very hard. Combine that with the perfect germination temperatures last fall and we have seen an explosion of weeds. This problem has been addressed and will soon be noticeable on the course.

We are also expecting our new carts to arrive any day. I am pleased with the understanding our membership has shown for the cart policy. Most realize the benefits of such a policy. To answer a few questions, Trail fee members should pay for a cart when their spouse is already playing in separate groups unless you are riding in another trail members private cart. If you are a non-trail fee member, you must pay for the cart rental regardless of what cart you occupy. For other questions, contact the pro shop.

Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Tennis News

Club Hours: Monday 4PM—9PM, Tues. thru Thurs. 9AM—9PM, Fri. & Sat. 9AM—6PM, Sunday 1PM—6PM

Future Stars (Wednesday) 4PM to 4:45 PM, ages 4-6, Six Weeks: Cost \$60

Court Stars (Tuesday & Thursday) 4:00 to 5:00 PM... Ages 7-13, Six Weeks: Cost \$130.

Our girls 12-U junior team have gotten off to a great start. They have continued their winning streak by posting a 2-0 record thus far. A special thanks to Woody Bond for spending the time preparing these young players for their matches.

Come out and support the NWR tennis team as they host several dual matches at Castlewoods. The team has two scholarship players in Aaron DeCamp and Allison Hartman. They have a 16 year old sensation in Susanna Becker. Congratulations to Kyle Carpenter and Drew Little in winning the fourth and deciding match in NWR's 4-3 victory over JA.

Ladies Night Out Mixer is April 25th. 6:00—8:00...Cost—\$15... Includes Match Play, Music, Munchies and Beverages.

Levi Patton has a couple of half hour lessons available around 3:00. Also, any JLTA teams interested in doing A.M. cardio sessions can call him at 573-4020. Both he and Brooks Buffington have times available in the mornings for those looking to polish up their skills.

Tennis Tip Of The Month

Do you want to be a better doubles player? Practice your serve. Try learning to serve the ball into different areas of the service box at will. Use targets such as cones, tennis bags or even a tennis ball can. Place one near the center service line, one next to the singles side-line and one in between the two. Practice serving the ball, three or four in a row to each target. When you get good at hitting it where you want it to go you can tell your doubles partner what to expect and maybe they will be able to help you win your service games more often.

Mark Elliott USPTA... Director of Tennis, Levi Patton USPTA... Head Pro, Brooks Buffington USPTA... Head Pro